Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049305 ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 /157 R

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT:GSP EXCLUSION OF OPEC COUNTRIES

REF: GENEVA 2211

1. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE QUESTION OF OPEC AND GSP WOULD BE RAISED IN MTN NEGOTIATION NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT MTN DEL SHOULD BE DRAWN INTO SUCH DISCUSSIONS. GSP IS A UNILATERAL, TEMPORARY AND UNBOUND GRANT AND AS SUCH IS NOT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION IN THE MTN. AS MTN DEL IS AWARE, BECAUSE OF ITS UNILATERAL AND UNBOUND NATURE, GSP TREATMENT IS INFERIOR TO BOUND MTN DUTY REDUCTIONS AS A TRADELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 049305

CREATING DEVICE AND AS AN INCENTIVE TO INVESTMENT IN NEW EXPORT PRODUCTION. LDCS WHICH ATTEMPT TO FOCUS ON THE EXCLUSION OF GSP BENEFITS SHOULD BE REFERRED INSTEAD TO THE MORE MEANINGFUL LONG-TERM BENEFITS AVAILABLE IN THE MTN.

2. FYI - THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSIDERED SEEKING AN

AMENDMENT TO THE TRADE ACT THAT WOULD ALLOW THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE THE PRESENT OPEC EXCLUSION UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING THE REMOVAL OF THIS EXCLUSION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY

IN CONGRESS ON A BROAD RANGE OF ENERGY ISSUES. THERE ARE SEVERAL BILLS IN CONGRESS WITH VARYING FORMULAE ON WAIVER/EXCLUSION WHICH ARE IN COMMITTEE. NO HEARINGS HAVE BEEN HELD OR ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD. MOST RECENTLY, CONGRESSWOMAN COLLINS INTRODUCED A BILL ON JANAURY 24 TO REMOVE THE OPEC EXCLUSION FROM NON-EMBARGOING COUNTRIES, WE ARE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, OF ANY WIDE SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL OR FOR THE OTHERS IN THE CONGRESS. END FYI. VANCE

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